**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A device ~~(1)~~ for controlling equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in a communications network comprising a network management system capable of managing ~~the~~ said equipment management data using previously loaded management data modules, associated with ~~the~~ said equipment management data and stored in a memory ~~(9), characterised in that it~~said device comprising ~~comprises~~ control means ~~(10) arranged,~~which when there is a request by ~~the~~ said network management system to take over at least one new item of equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network, ~~to~~ extracts from ~~the~~ said memory ~~(9)~~ the management data module associated with ~~each~~ said at least one new item of equipment, and then loads into ~~the~~ said network management system each new management data module extracted, dynamically, so that the management by ~~the~~ said network management system of ~~the other items of~~ said equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network is not interrupted.

2. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said control means ~~(10) are arranged~~which controls, whenever a new management data module is loaded, associated with a new version of ~~an item of~~ equipment ~~(5)~~ which has not yet been integrated in ~~the~~ said communications network ~~whilst~~ while an ~~"old"~~old management data module associated with a prior version of ~~this~~ the equipment ~~(5)~~ is still loaded and ~~the~~ said prior version of the equipment is still integrated in ~~the~~ said communications network, i) to put ~~the~~ said new management data module loaded on standby so as to continue the management of ~~the~~ said

~~old~~ prior version of the equipment from ~~the~~ said old management data module~~old associated loaded module~~, until ~~the~~ said new version of the equipment ~~(5)~~ is integrated, and then ii), when data indicating ~~the~~ an integration of ~~the~~ said new version of the equipment are received, to put ~~the~~ said new management data module loaded into service so as to provide the management of ~~the~~ said new version of the equipment ~~(5)~~ from ~~this~~ said new management data module.

3. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein said ~~putting on~~ standby consists firstly of allowing the management of ~~the~~ said new version of the equipment ~~(5)~~ from ~~the~~ said new management data module, without taking account of ~~any~~ error messages related to its non-integration in ~~the~~ said communications network, and secondly to send a message to ~~the~~ said old management data module ~~a message~~ indicating ~~to it~~ that a change of version is under way and that said old management data module~~it~~ must not take account of at least some of the error messages related to ~~the~~ a conjoint management of the old and new versions of the equipment.

4. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 2, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein said control means ~~(10) are arranged~~which, in ~~the~~ a case of ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization between ~~the~~ said new version of the equipment ~~version (5)~~ and ~~the~~ said new management data module, ~~so as to delete the~~ deletes said old management data module.

5. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said control means ~~(10) are arranged to~~ loads management data modules according to at least a first mode in which ~~the~~ said management data modules are loaded independently of ~~any~~

dependencies between said management data modules ~~them~~ and a second mode in which, in loading ~~the~~ said management data modules, account is taken of ~~any~~ the dependencies between them.

6. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~wherein each management data module consists of at least one descriptor.

7. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 6, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein the at least one descriptor consists of at least one program code file and at least one configuration file.

8. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that one of the said~~ wherein said at least one program code files of ~~a~~ said at least one descriptor comprises first data designating a type to which an item of network equipment belongs, and another of ~~the~~ said program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises second data designating a management information base definition associated with ~~the~~ said equipment management data~~(5)~~ and accessible to ~~the~~ said network management system.

9. (currently amended): A device according to Claim 7, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein said program codes are in Java language.

10. (currently amended): A management device according to claim 9, in which said management device is coupled to management means and wherein management server ~~(2)~~ in a

communications network~~, comprising~~ comprises said management means ~~(3) able to~~which manages network equipment ~~(5)~~ using loaded management data modules, associated with ~~the~~ said network equipment ~~(5)~~ and stored in a memory ~~(9), characterised in that it comprises a management device (1) according to one of the preceding claims, coupled to the said management means~~.

11. (currently amended): A method of controlling equipment management data ~~(5)~~ in a communications network, in which ~~the said~~ network equipment is managed using loaded management data modules, associated with ~~the~~ said network equipment ~~(5), characterised in that~~wherein, in the case of a request to take over at least one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network, ~~each~~ new management data module associated with ~~a~~ said at least one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~ is loaded dynamically so that ~~the~~ management of ~~the~~ other network equipment ~~(5)~~ in ~~the~~ said communications network is not interrupted.

12. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that~~wherein, in the case of the loading of ~~a~~ said new management data module associated with ~~a new version of an~~said at least one new item of equipment ~~(5)~~ not yet integrated in ~~the~~ said communication network ~~whilst~~ while an ~~"old"~~old management data module associated with a prior version of ~~this~~ the equipment ~~(5)~~ is still loaded and ~~the~~ said prior version of the equipment is still integrated in ~~the~~ said communications network, i) ~~the~~ said new management data module ~~loaded~~ loading is put on standby so as to continue the management of ~~the~~ said ~~old~~ prior version of the equipment ~~(5)~~ using ~~the~~ said ~~associated~~ old management data module ~~loaded~~, until ~~the~~ said at least one new ~~version~~ item of ~~the~~ equipment ~~(5)~~ is integrated, and then ii), on receiving data signalling the

integration of ~~the~~ said at least one new ~~version~~item of equipment, ~~the~~ said new management data module loaded is brought into service so as to provide the management of ~~the~~ said at least one new ~~version~~ item of equipment ~~(5)~~ using ~~this~~ said new management data module.

13. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein said putting on standby ~~consists~~ comprises firstly of allowing the management of ~~the~~ said at least one new ~~version~~ item of ~~the~~ equipment ~~(5)~~ using ~~the~~ said associated new management data module without taking account of ~~any~~ error messages related to ~~its~~ non-integration in ~~the~~ said communications network, and secondly of sending a message to ~~the~~ said old management data module ~~a message~~ signalling ~~to it that~~ a change of version is under way and that said old management data module~~it~~ must not take account of at least some of the error messages related to ~~the~~ a conjoint management of ~~the~~ said ~~old~~ prior version of the equipment and said at least one new ~~versions~~item of equipment.

14. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~wherein, in the case of ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization between ~~the~~ said at least one new item of equipment ~~version (5)~~ and ~~the~~ said new management data module, ~~the~~ said old management data module is deleted.

15. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein management data modules are loaded independently of ~~any~~ dependencies thereof or taking account of ~~any~~ said dependencies thereof.

16. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 12, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein said management data module ~~consists~~ comprises of at least one descriptor.

17. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 16, ~~characterised in that each~~wherein said at least one descriptor ~~consists~~ comprises of at least one program code file and at least one configuration file.

18. (currently amended): A method according to Claim 17, ~~characterised in that~~wherein one of ~~the~~ said program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises first data designating a type to which an item of equipment in the network belongs, and another of ~~the~~ said program code files of ~~the~~ said at least one descriptor comprises second data designating a management information base definition associated with ~~the~~ said item of equipment ~~(5)~~ and is accessible.

19. (currently amended): A method according to Claim ~~1~~918, ~~characterised in that the~~wherein said program codes are in Java language.

20. (currently amended): A method according to claim 19, in which ~~Use of the method, control device (1) and~~ a management server comprises said device; and management means manages ~~(2) according to one of the preceding claims in the~~ network technologies. ~~which are to be managed.~~

21. (currently amended): ~~Use~~ A method according to Claim 20, ~~characterised in that the~~ wherein said network technologies are chosen from a group comprising: ~~the~~

transmission networks comprising ~~, in particular of the~~ WDM, SONET and SDH type~~;~~,

data networks~~,~~ comprising ~~in particular of the~~ Internet-IP and ATM type~~;~~, and

voice networks comprising ~~, in particular of the~~ conventional, mobile and NGN type.